



General Assembly

***Proposed Senate Joint
Resolution No. 3***

January Session, 2003

LCO No. 648

Referred to Committee on Government Administration and
Elections

Introduced by:
SEN. SMITH, 14th Dist.

***RESOLUTION PROPOSING A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO
PROVIDE FOR VOTER INITIATIVE AND REFERENDUM.***

Resolved by this Assembly:

1 That (1) the third and eleventh articles of the state Constitution be
2 amended to grant to the electors of this state, independent of the
3 General Assembly, the power to propose laws by initiative and to
4 enact or reject them at an election; that an initiative measure be
5 proposed by presenting to the Secretary of the State a petition that sets
6 forth the text of the proposed law and that is certified to have been
7 signed by a number of electors equal to at least five per cent of the total
8 votes cast for all candidates for Governor in the preceding
9 gubernatorial election; that no initiative measure that (A) proposes
10 special legislation affecting one or more municipalities, (B) creates or
11 abolishes courts, prescribes their rules or alters their decisions, (C)
12 names an individual to hold any office, (D) names a private
13 corporation to perform any function or to have any power, (E) requires
14 elections, (F) provides for appropriations for usual current expenses of
15 the state, other than a proposal governing the appropriations process,

16 (G) affects individual rights which are protected under judicial
17 interpretation of the United States Constitution or the State
18 Constitution or (H) was the subject of an initiative proposal within the
19 two preceding calendar years shall be submitted to the electors or have
20 any effect; and that no legislative action shall be taken with respect to
21 any proposal submitted to the electorate until the third legislative
22 session following such submittal and (2) that the third and eleventh
23 articles of the state Constitution be amended to grant to the electors of
24 this state, independent of the General Assembly, the power to approve
25 or reject at an election any statute or any part thereof; that a
26 referendum measure be proposed by presenting to the Secretary of the
27 State a petition that sets forth the law or part thereof to be submitted to
28 the electors for approval or rejection and that is certified to have been
29 signed by a number of electors equal to at least five per cent of the total
30 votes cast for all candidates for Governor in the preceding
31 gubernatorial election; that the following laws shall not be subject to a
32 referendum: (A) A special act affecting one or more municipalities, (B)
33 a law creating or abolishing courts, prescribing their rules or altering
34 their decisions, (C) a law naming an individual to hold any office, (D) a
35 law naming a private corporation to perform any function or to have
36 any power, (E) a law requiring elections, (F) a law providing for
37 appropriations for usual current expenses of the state, other than a
38 proposal governing the appropriations process, (G) a law affecting
39 individual rights which are protected under judicial interpretation of
40 the United States Constitution or the State Constitution or (H) a law
41 which was the subject of a referendum measure submitted to the
42 electors within the two calendar years preceding the year in which the
43 election is held at which the referendum measure is to be voted upon;
44 and that no legislative action shall be taken with respect to any law
45 submitted to the electorate until the third legislative session following
46 such submittal.

Statement of Purpose:

To grant the powers of direct initiative and referendum to Connecticut voters.